This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

C 8343.249.10

Memorial of John H.Dillingham.
1913

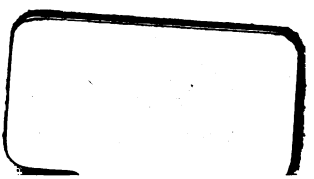
Digitized by Google

C 8343.249.10

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

FROM THE
George Schünemann Jackson
FUND
FOR THE PURCHASE OF BOOKS ON
SOCIAL WELFARE & MORAL PHILOSOPHY

GIVEN IN HONOR OF HIS PARENTS, THEIR SIMPLICITY
SINCERITY AND FEARLESSNESS



Digitized by Google

MEMORIAL
OF
JOHN H. DILLINGHAM

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

MEMORIAL

OF

JOHN H. DILLINGHAM.

PHILADELPHIA:
FRIENDS' BOOK STORE, No. 304 ARCH STREET.

1913.

Digitized by Google

CC 7 E. 247.10

V

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

Wm. H. Pile's Sons, Printers.

Digitized by Google

MEMORIAL
OF
JOHN H. DILLINGHAM.

When our Master sought to teach his disciples the true nature of his kingdom, he took a little child and set him in their midst and said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Those who knew our late beloved friend, John H. Dillingham, will recognize how well he had learned this lesson. Children found in him something kindred to themselves and loved him everywhere. Traits prominent in childhood are simplicity and teachableness, and these we believe were throughout life characteristics of our dear friend. The soil in which they grew was love to God and love to man. In placing on record a memorial of his life the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia for the Western District would make the effort as a token of

Digitized by Google

love, as an expression of gratitude for his long service and of bereavement in his death, and that an example of holy living may not be lost. To bear such a loving tribute is but to testify to the grace that made him a faithful disciple of his Lord. John Dillingham was a weighty counsellor and minister, a man exceptionally lovable, simple-hearted, gentle yet firm, tactful, courteous, Christlike.

He was the eldest child of Abram and Lydia B. Dillingham and was born at West Falmouth, Massachusetts, Sixth Month 1st, 1839. After preparation at nearby schools he entered Harvard College, where he was an accurate and persevering student. From boyhood he had an ear sensitive to the call of heavenly wisdom and of parental care. In the college environment he came in contact with young men who, like himself, were sincere seekers after truth. This search was the absorbing interest of his young manhood and continued for a decade after he left college. Gradually, however, he found that inquiry and scholarship were inadequate to his need and that nothing less than the direct revelation of Jesus Christ in his heart could satisfy the craving for eternal life. As a personal experience this

Digitized by Google

revelation made the Christ of history a great reality to him. Walking in this fear, his eye was kept single, light came, and great peace and joy followed. After this experience he was able to adopt the views of Christian doctrine as professed by Friends and never afterwards to feel a moment's unsettlement in regard to them. "Quakerism," he wrote long after this period, "is yesterday, to-day and forever obedience to the movings of the Spirit of Truth."

After the Harvard course an opportunity came to be a teacher, and by a series of circumstances which he felt were Providential he found in this responsible calling his life work. It became as a channel for his ministry of spoken or written word open and fruitful. His life was an epistle known and read of his pupils and co-workers. At Friends' Select School, Philadelphia, where he spent thirty happy years, his counsel and aid in religious matters were increasingly sought. His service there in class-room and meetings for worship was especially blessed to him and helpful to others.

In 1866, by which time his home had become fixed in Pennsylvania, he moved his member-

Digitized by Google

ship among Friends from West Falmouth, Massachusetts, to the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia for the Western District, and feeling the responsibility of such a connection he shortly became a valuable and active member. He had a shepherding gift of high order, and being interested in people individually, and having ability to discover good under an unpromising exterior, he diffused an atmosphere that not only put others at their ease but stimulated them to be at their best. He was always ready to consider another's point of view, and to those of limited experience and knowledge he gave attentive and sympathetic hearing. Moreover, he seemed incapable of resentment. In this attitude he was so simple and sincere that his opponents were often convinced. Doubtless this was the secret of his approachableness, for he had truly "the teachable spirit of Jesus." Through much seeking and many doubts he had come into a state of religious settlement, which place he kept by prayer and watchfulness. This produced a serenity and peace that had great influence on others and more than the words he spoke gave to his counsel directness, weight and positiveness. As an overseer, and

Digitized by Google

in the position of elder and burden-bearer, he exercised those gifts which were a means of preparing him for rightly dividing the word of Truth to the edification of hearers and to the building up amongst us of the church of believers. Although he had from early manhood what is designated the "prophetic gift," yet he was not acknowledged a minister till after he had been speaking in meeting for a number of years. In the ministry his way of presenting a message was often apt and striking; in prayer his attitude was particularly reverential, with a sense of access to the Throne of Mercy.

The position of editor of *The (Philadelphia) Friend* John Dillingham accepted as a trust, and before writing an editorial he waited for a sense of commission to present a message. Testimony has been borne to the help that came to many from reading these prayerfully prepared articles. His pen, like all that he possessed, being dedicated to the service of his Master, his written messages were often timely, practical and uplifting. In addressing a graduating class he once said, "Be careful of the good name of others. Allow people to think as well

Digitized by Google

of each other as they can. It does them good, and it will be healthful for you to live in a state of admiration and not of criticism."

Again, that by any means he might gain some, he traced back the Gospel writings in a careful historical paper, in which he makes this comment: "Many are curious to know on what grounds it is believed the New Testament books were written in the first century of the Christian era. This is a question comparatively unimportant to solve to those who are in the life in which the Gospels were given forth. These know what they feel. They do not feel the time in which the Gospels were given forth, but they feel the Gospel, the life, the truth, and that sense dispenses with all external evidences as no longer required for such. But some want to believe in the written record before they believe in the truth therein recorded."

Unquestioning obedience to the Holy Spirit was the rule and practice of John Dillingham's life. "Thus saith the Lord," he wrote, "is beyond the pale of man's reason or sense of expediency, and supreme above all other rules of moral conduct." The simplicity of

Digitized by Google

his religious faith was such that what the Spirit prompted he did, sure that his own imperfections would be overruled. This simplicity of faith and manner was joined to a personal unselfishness, the gift of both nature and of grace, that amounted almost to a fault. No count can ever be taken of "his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

Unquestioning obedience to the Divine will, John Dillingham regarded as the fundamental principle of religious faith. The life was more than meat and the body than raiment. "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me." Such obedience became in his case the key to an experience of the blessed offices of a Saviour's love. The life of Jesus of Nazareth, his suffering on Calvary with all its unspeakable consequences of propitiation, reconciliation and sanctification might be meaningless as articles of a creed, but as principles of life, ministered by the Holy Spirit, they became essential to the unity of faith in which we shall all come unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

Regarding obedience to the known will of God, John Dillingham has written: "Con-

Digitized by Google

formity to the supremely good and perfect will is the secret of power. There has been only One who perfectly fulfiled the will of our Father, one whose meat and drink it was to do that will, who always did the things that please Him. And to him we find all power was given in Heaven and on earth. . . . And it has appeared that among his learners in proportion as weak wills were converted into the Divine will were they able to be instruments of many mighty works."

On the social side John Dillingham had special endowments. On many occasions, among many sorts of people, he was an acceptable guest. His cheeriness, even playfulness of manner, though restrained was pervasive and delightful. How droll and happy, yet how unoffending, were his witticisms! How profitable his graver discourse! At his own fireside he was the devoted husband and loving, concerned father. In that intimate circle his consistent Christian walk preached louder than words the Gospel of Christ. He possessed "the radiant personality" which made even the unbeliever admit that such a life was hid with Christ in God. This effect was testified to by a neighbor

Digitized by Google

whose acquaintance was such as came from seeing our friend come and go. "If I had any religion," said the neighbor, "I should want his kind." They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

On Third Month 15th, 1910, in the midst of activity at Friends' Select School, John Dillingham was suddenly called up higher. At the funeral in the meeting-house on Twelfth Street, an occasion of rare solemnity and visible grief, the presence of the Master was felt in no ordinary degree. Our friend was mourned as a brother with whom sweet communion has been held, as a father whose counsel and judgment were highly prized, as a friend always ready with sympathy and help. "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour be (the) glory."

Approved by Philadelphia Monthly Meeting of Friends for the Western District, Third Month 20th, 1912, and endorsed by Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting, Fifth Month 7th, 1912.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

C 8343.249.10
Memorial of John H. Dillingham.
Widener Library
003513184
3 2044 081 818 312

Digitized by Google